

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/05806 filed on Jun 23, 2000**

On a separate, new page 49, following page 48, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure:

-ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A2
A microcapsule having a mean diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm, a membrane and a matrix containing at least one active principle wherein the microcapsule is the product of the process comprising the steps of (a) forming an aqueous matrix by heating an aqueous solution comprised of a gel former, a chitosan and active principle; (b) forming a dispersed matrix by adding the aqueous matrix in an oil phase; (c) contacting the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution of an anionic polymer selected from the group consisting of a salt of alginic acid and an anionic chitosan derivative.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-22.

Please add the following new claims 23-38.

A3
23. (New) A microcapsule having a mean diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm, a membrane and a matrix containing at least one active principle wherein the microcapsule is the product of the process comprising the steps of (a) forming an aqueous matrix by heating an aqueous solution comprised of a gel former, a chitosan and active principle; (b) forming a dispersed matrix by adding the aqueous matrix in an oil phase; (c) contacting the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution of an anionic polymer selected from the group consisting of a salt of alginic acid and an anionic chitosan derivative.

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24. (New) A process for producing a microcapsule having a mean diameter of from about 0.1 to about 5 mm, a membrane and a matrix containing at least one active principle comprising the steps of (a) forming an aqueous matrix by heating an aqueous solution comprised of a gel former, a chitosan and active principle; (b) forming a dispersed matrix by adding the aqueous matrix in an oil phase; (c) contacting the dispersed matrix with an aqueous solution of an anionic polymer

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¹¹
~~33.~~ (New) The process of claim ²~~24~~ wherein the process is carried out at a temperature of from about 40 to about 100°C.

¹²
~~34.~~ (New) The process of claim ²~~24~~ wherein the matrix is dispersed in 2 to 5 times its volume of the oil phase.

¹³
~~35.~~ (New) The process of claim ²~~24~~ wherein in step (b) the temperature of the matrix is from about 40 to about 60°C and the temperature of the oil phase is from about 10 to about 20°C.

¹⁴
~~36.~~ (New) The process of claim ²~~24~~ wherein the dispersed matrix is added to from about 0.1 to about 3% by weight of an aqueous solution of the anionic polymer.

¹⁵
~~37.~~ (New) The process of claim ¹⁴~~36~~ wherein the dispersed matrix is contacted at a temperature of from about 40 to about 100°C.

¹⁶
~~38.~~ (New) The process of claim ¹⁵~~37~~ further comprising step (d) wherein the oil phase is removed.